

S-E-C-R-E-T

17 October 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM: Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. An exchange of letters with the Government of Nigeria has been completed, and the FBIS advance party for establishment of the West African Bureau was advised by the US Consul General, Lagos to arrive in Nigeria about 20 October. [redacted] Chief, departed headquarters for Nigeria via London on 7 October. He and [redacted] Engineer, are scheduled to arrive in Lagos on the recommended date. Initial steps toward recruitment of monitors were taken in London. [redacted]

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2. A compilation of broadcast material from the communist bloc and Cuba vilifying CIA and Allen Dulles was submitted to the Director at his request on 7 September. The compilation, totaling several hundred pages, included all pertinent material published in the Daily Report since 1 May of this year. [redacted]

50X1

3. The third compilation for the Director of broadcast comment on the Republican and Democratic national tickets was issued on 19 September. [redacted]

50X1

4. Production problems entailed in putting out crash special reports for high-level consumers were reviewed in RPB in the light of the increasing demand for such services. Planning and deadline procedures were formalized with a view to streamlining branch efforts in response to these requirements. [redacted]

50X1

5. Experiments continued under Printing Services Division auspices to determine whether the FBIS Daily Report might better be prepared on "mechanical negative," rather than mimeograph, stencils. The Middle East and West Europe Daily report of 1 September and the Latin American Daily Report during the week 19-23 September were produced from mechanical negative stencils. The particular brand of stencils used in the experiments did not prove satisfactory. Additional tests with an apparently superior brand began at the end of the month. [redacted]

50X1

6. [redacted] General Accounting Office Auditor made a detailed survey of FBIS operations, management practices, and financial procedures during September and early October. His inspection covered all staff sections in Headquarters, plus the East Coast Bureau. [redacted]

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7. FBIS was informed on 16 September that the Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA) had agreed to transmit an instruction to over 20 area missions seeking support for FBIS monitor recruiting, particularly Persian, Persian-Kurdish, and Persian-Pushtu linguists. The instruction asks Foreign Service missions to pass directly to Mediterranean Bureau the names and other data on translator applicants presently on file, and to continue to furnish FBIS with such information as new candidates appear. [redacted]

50X1

8. During September, steps were taken to broaden the base of editorial recruiting, with a view to increasing the flow and improving the quality of trainee editors. Candidates with degrees in liberal arts, business, and science will be considered in addition to journalism and political science majors. [redacted]

50X1

9. Bureaus should note that the FBIS Progress Report -- 1 July 1959-30 June 1960 which was sent all field bureaus on or about 1 October, contains an error in paragraph II A 2 e (page 6). The first sentence should read -- "continue to rise from 780 hours per day last year--"

50X1

10. Of 235 items included in OCI's Current Intelligence Digest during the month, 75 (31.9 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [redacted]

50X1

11. The concepts of the Language Award Program have been modified to shift emphasis from a generalized interest in language study to a greater concern for the utility of the languages studied and to require awards to be approved by the Operating Official concerned. To provide a guide for granting language proficiency awards, the following criteria have been established according to which awards will generally be approved by the Chief, FBIS:

a. Editors, Chief Monitors and Cruising Monitors: Proficiency in any foreign language used in world broadcasting.

b. Analysts: Proficiency in any language used in the home or international services of any communist broadcasting transmitter.

c. Bureau Chiefs, Engineering personnel and Administrative Officers: Proficiency in the languages of any countries in which FBIS has field bureaus.

d. Classified Monitors: Proficiency in any language, other than those for which the employee was hired as a monitor, in which foreign broadcasts or press transmissions are audible in the United States.

e. Other Classified Employees: Awards will be recommended only when directly related to specific, current, or planned assignment. Awards will continue to be granted according to individual merit.

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12. The following is excerpted from the book, "The Overseas Americans", authored by Harlan Cleveland, Gerard J. Mangone, and John Clarke Adams. It is provided herewith as an item of interest:

"A certain tension between a headquarters and its field stations, of course, is not only inevitable but highly desirable. Utter peace is unthinkable between two parts of an organization deliberately placed so that each can see the organization work from a different point of view, can pick up information unavailable to the other, and can deal with a different constituency. A field organization is a consciously created system of tensions within which each geographical unit is expected to practice workways, make policy recommendations, and cultivate outside relationships that are special to its location. The function of over-all management is to draw from these disparate forces the elements of wise action from day to day, consistent with the purpose of the organization as a whole. Each unit's management has to understand that it is a part in a larger enterprise, and that the way the unit's executives see things is not necessarily the way they should look to the organization as a whole. This is not to say that vigorous advocacy of the unit's point of view is not in order; but each unit and, indeed, every individual specialist within it needs a lively understanding of the process by which his expert judgments are stirred into the general administrative stew.

"The problem is that administrative tension is often increased to a pathological degree by two factors peculiar to most overseas posts. One is the abnormally long lines of communication; messages are often slow, sometimes garbled, and always expensive. The other factor is that the operation is cross-cultural--because of this the geographical distance between headquarters and field is multiplied by a mutual ignorance of the environment in which the other fellow is working. In the government agencies, Washington is full of people who are backstopping overseas missions in countries they have never even visited; and the missions in turn are full of people who have only the vaguest idea what actually happens to a request for action when it enters the mysterious jungle of Washington's interdepartmental clearance system--our very own cultural adaptation of Gotong Rojong.

"A certain bureaucratic tolerance, a high boiling point, and the kind of experience that teaches which techniques work for you and which against you in getting action inside a larger organization--these, then, are requisites of effective performance on an overseas job. One typically healthy attitude was expressed by an ICA man in Yugoslavia: 'Our relations between the mission here and Washington are excellent in my opinion. We're pretty tolerant of each other. Of course, there are differences. They probably think we're crazy on some of our requests, but the differences aren't insurmountable.' The ingredients are clear: an expectation of tension, plus the ability to win at least some of the resulting fights. It is the people who must win every engagement who never last long enough to win the way."

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Propaganda Analysis Comment 50X1

1. The Chief, RPB attended the first meetings of a new Sino-Soviet Task Force composed of DD/I, DD/P, ONE, OCI, ORR, and FBIS representatives, set up to review Agency research activities in the field of Sino-Soviet relations, discuss DD/P courses of action, and consider U.S. policy in the event of an open Sino-Soviet break. A list of current FBIS analysis projects and suggested topics for research and analysis was submitted to the Task Force chairman, at his request.

2. The following are among Radio Propaganda Reports projected or under consideration for publication within the next few months (responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

- a. The CPSU October Revolution anniversary slogans 50X1
- b. Replacement of Chief Editors of key Soviet journals 50X1
- c. Semiannual report on Soviet civil defense training, 50X1
for NIC
- d. Contrasting Soviet and Chinese views on national liberation 50X1
movements
- e. Opposition to the commune program in the Chinese Communist 50X1
Party, in response to a standing OCI requirement
- f. Research has begun into Chinese military doctrine with a 50X1
view to assessing contradictions between modernization and Mao's
traditional concepts.

3. An RPB project to code passages in satellite leader speeches on issues relevant to the Sino-Soviet argument is being outlined. Speeches by the leaders since September 1959 will be examined to discover their positions on such key questions as peaceful coexistence, the inevitability of war, and the nature of the current epoch.

4. Radio Propaganda Reports issued in September (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

- a. A Radio Propaganda Report of 23 August on Moscow's more 50X1
aggressive stance in the Sino-Soviet polemic was updated in a
report on "The Sino-Soviet Polemic: Moscow Intensifies Pressure
for Conformity. Peking Shows No Retreat From Basic Positions."
- b. A special memorandum on "Moscow and Peking Treatment of 50X1
Major Speeches at the 15th UNGA Session" was prepared at OCI
request for use by the Director in briefing the National Security
Council.

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5. Propaganda Analysis Items on the FBIS Wire (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

- a. "SOVIET LATVIA Article Warns that 'Isolated CPR' Would Face Imperialist Military Attack Without Bloc Support" 50X1
- b. "Moscow Confident of Imminent Successful Manned Space Flight" 50X1
- c. "First Mention of Soviet Astronaut-in-Training Heightens Air of Expectation of Manned Space Flight Attempt" 50X1

6. The feasibility of making available unclassified versions of RPB publications that can be shown to foreign national monitors was explored in the light of suggestions by returning field editors. It was determined that the simplest and most effective method would be to send selected portions of RPB periodical and special reports, essentially descriptive in nature and containing nothing judged to be sensitive, from time to time to selected bureaus in declassified form, as an aid to field supervisory personnel in providing guidance to the monitors. The first such materials will go out in October.

7. The London, Austrian, and Mediterranean Bureaus surveyed satellite home service broadcasts at RPB request for indications of a drop-off of comment on Chinese affairs since 5 July, when Soviet comment on CPR developments ceased. In view of inconclusive results with regard to Rumanian broadcasts, the Austrian Bureau extended its survey to cover Rumanian home service newscasts for a full year; this initiative produced the finding that there has been a sharp drop in the number of items on the CPR since July 1960.

8. An Austrian Bureau project to scan four Soviet central newspapers for the period 1 January through 31 July for references to collective and collegial leadership was of direct value in the preparation of Radio Propaganda Report CD. 171, "New Public Image of Top Soviet Leadership Emerging," which during the past month drew complimentary comment from the DCI and DDCI.

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The following astute and humorous article entitled "What is a Monitor," written by [redacted] of the EBC Monitoring Staff, appeared in the August 1960 issue of the EBC Association of Broadcasting Staff Bulletin. We believe that it will strike a responsive chord in FBIS monitors (and editors).

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"If one speaks nowadays of a monitor in connection with the EBC most people know at least what he is not: he is neither a school prefect, nor a large pleurodont lizard closely related to the iguanas; he is not a flat-bottomed warship with one or more revolving turrets, and finally he is not a television programme on the arts. This is now generally accepted. But do people know what he is? Well, there has been some publicity about our work and by now some 1.5 per 100 of the adult population do know, which is some progress.

"Let me therefore explain what a monitor does. Well, in as few words as possible: we listen, we record, we transcribe. We listen to a tremendous amount of foreign broadcasts, much of it not even interesting to the broadcaster himself. There we sit, with the patience of Job, and hear about the happy life on a collective farm in Uzbekistan, about the discovery of a new species of stag-beetle, or fairytales in the transmission for children. (Sometimes there are fairy-tales in other transmissions as well, but they are called propaganda and are of interest to our consumers.) All this stuff we record, but, thank goodness, we do not have to transcribe it all.

"The next step in a monitor's work would, in a strip cartoon, appear as a bubble over his head with the word 'thinks' in it. Indeed, he thinks (for this strenuous occupation he should be upgraded forthwith) whether what he has just heard could possibly be of interest to anybody. Not much effort is needed in the cases given in the previous paragraph; nor--to go to the opposite extreme--if he had just heard that Khrushchev had applied for the Chiltern Hundreds, or Nasser asked for political asylum in Israel. One need not be a skilled monitor to know that ~~these~~ must be transcribed and the first group 'spiked'--filed without transcribing.

"The difficulties in selection arise in between the two extremes: does a short paragraph in an otherwise dull commentary indicate a change of emphasis? Is it a first hint of a new propaganda line? Is it a ballon d'essai to test reaction abroad or among the indigenous population? These are some of the possibilities which must not be overlooked. It must be realized that, while a speaker on the EBC expresses in most cases only his own opinion, in dictatorial or semi-dictatorial countries he always expresses Government policy.

"The monitor makes up his mind on these considerations whether and to what extent to transcribe: a short extract, a summary, the whole text. Then he takes his record and earphones to a cubicle and does it, translating into English in the process.

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"The translating difficulties arise when one deals with a field of which one knows little. Not even a monitor can be an expert in every sphere. It can happen that one has to deal in a single shift with an item on the steel industry, a talk on religion, a feature on agriculture, and a Marxist ideological lecture--every one of them studded with technical jargon most of which cannot be found in the dictionaries. A great deal of research is often needed to find the right translation for a single technical term--reading pages and pages on, say, mining machinery, first in a German encyclopedia and then in the Encyclopedia Britannica; with luck and more elbow-grease one might in the end manage to hit on the correct term.

"After jargon, the second worst enemy is poor reception. If it's completely worthless and one can't hear a thing one is not too unhappy, except perhaps about the extra money one spends in the canteen because of the enforced idleness. The worst is poor reception--not quite worthless but difficult to hear. One sometimes spends ten minutes over a single word, playing that part of the record again and again, fast and slow, loud and low, and at the fiftieth time one might suddenly understand it.

"I admit that one does not bother quite so much if the broadcast is not important--but if it is important, a mistake, a mishearing, is also very important. One such mistake actually led to a diplomatic démarche by a great power many years ago.

"Finally, the transcript, on a master copy, is handed to the Distribution Point. There, eight to ten copies are made and sent--by a strange-looking conveyer which is the delight of all little boys who enter the building--to the various departments which process it according to their own needs. The monitor goes back to the set to take his next bulletin or home to dream of collective farms in Uzbekistan.

"Do you now know what a monitor is?"

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Editorial Branch Comment

General

1. During the session of the UN General Assembly in New York the FBIS daily summation of Significant Radio Reportage was devoted largely to comment on the session and related developments. In addition, a special roundup disseminated by the FBIS Wire on 26 September summarized noncommunist radio and press reaction to the UN speeches of President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Khrushchev.

2. Yugoslav Vice President Kardelj's treatise, "Socialism and War," and a PRAVDA article refuting the treatise were published in a 142-page Daily Report Supplement on 2 September. Normal distribution was increased by some 300 copies to meet broad consumer demand for this publication. Another Daily Report Supplement on 16 September collated speeches by foreign delegates to the Third National Congress of the Vietnam Workers Party.

3. The first returns from the annual survey of FBIS White Book recipients reflect the usual enthusiasm among non-government consumers for this unique source of information. The importance of this product, whose recipients include journalists, students and educators at major universities, private research organizations, and members of Congress, is further reflected by the very slight volume of adverse criticism.

4. The 16 September administrative message to the field outlining headquarters requirements for the processing of speeches made at the U.N. General Assembly session was the result of a detailed exploration of the needs of our consumers and of the availability of the pertinent material from local sources. It had been determined that texts of communist bloc and neutralist speeches would not be available to many government offices without considerable delay.

Further inquiry as the session progressed established the fact that "provisional" texts based upon the simultaneous translations made during the presentation of the various speeches were being issued approximately three days after the event. These "texts," in addition to various failings as to completeness and accuracy and their difficult availability, could not meet the needs of our consumers for expeditious distribution and accuracy.

Although occasional unavoidable delays in the filing of adequate versions from the field sometimes postponed distribution for two or three days, FBIS was nonetheless able to provide these materials well in advance of other sources.

5. Editors and monitors are urged to exercise the greatest caution in identifying and spelling the names of individuals in the news. Every

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effort should be made to use the research aids provided on a current basis by the Technical Information Unit. The press of Daily Report deadlines makes it extremely difficult for editors to devote a great deal of time to verifying the spelling of names and the accuracy of identifications. All too frequently spellings used by the field vary substantially from the standard versions available in field bureau files.

Mediterranean Bureau

When a significant item is carried first by MENA or ANA and later picked up by area radios, it would be appreciated if the Middle East Review indicated the specific transmitters which reported the item.

Engineering and Field Operations

1. Arrangements were made with the London and German Bureaus to transfer full responsibility for coverage of DPA to London for a 90-day trial period, and for experimental transfer from BBC to the German Bureau of Moscow German coverage. At the same time BBC agreed to assume responsibility for certain Moscow broadcasts in Dutch, Serbo-Croat, and Portuguese. BBC has since resumed coverage of the Moscow German, but London Bureau responsibility for DPA continues.

2. Simultaneous reception surveys involving the East and West Coast Bureaus and the Panama Post were conducted during the month. Reception checks made by [] BIS/FOS at Key West, Florida from 13-30 September will be compared with reception at Santa Rosa, [] and Panama. Preliminary reports indicate that Key West is suitable for little more than Cuban monitoring.

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3. Combined monitoring booth control units and transistorized amplifiers have been completed at the East Coast Bureau for the African Bureau. Requisitions covering electronic equipment and furniture for the project have been reviewed and revised to reduce projected expenditures.

4. At Okinawa Bureau, as of 30 September, addition of bedrooms to four duplexes and replacement of windows in the BOQ had progressed to 55 percent completion, and the addition to the operations building at Bolo Point had progressed to 13 percent completion.

5. The BIS completed the basic revision of the entire Western European portion of Part II of the Program Schedule Book. This section has been materially reduced in scope in order to enable the BIS to give more attention to more critical areas.

6. The following projects levied on BIS/FOS were completed during the month:

- a. The concluding portion of a long-standing report on the

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total weekly output of top Communist and Free World broadcasters.

b. Compilation of a list of radio and TV stations in East Germany to be used in preparing a telecommunications map of that country.

c. Compilation of an up-to-date list of Cuban radio and TV stations, point-to-point facilities, and various other data on Cuban radio activities.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Kurdish linguist, [] completed a brief period of orientation at the East Coast Bureau and proceeded to Cyprus.

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2. [] Electronic Engineer, GS-12, returned to duty after two years at Tri-State College where he obtained a BS degree in Communications Engineering. [] has been assigned as Assistant Chief Engineer, East Coast Bureau, replacing [] who will be leaving for Africa in early October.

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3. Bureaus are requested to use the MV number on any correspondence to headquarters which concerns their vehicles.

4. Bureaus are reminded that personal business, i.e., Credit Union and insurance matters, should not be conducted by teletype.

5. Employees who participate in organization paid external training may be required to sign a Training Agreement. The Agreement is a pledge to work a specified minimum number of years for the organization after completion of training.

6. There are no objections to the use of the Foreign Service application form for education allowances.

7. The following FBIS Regulatory Issuances were released during the month of September:

[]

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8. Bureau Chiefs are requested to address all messages announcing arrivals and departures of employees or official visitors to the Chief, FBIS; not to a Staff Officer.

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PERSONNEL CHANGES

1. [] took over as Chief of the USSR/East Europe Section of the Daily Report on 26 September.

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2. [] assumed the duties of Chief of the Wire Services Section on 8 October.

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3. [] is slated to become Chief of the West Europe/Latin America Unit about 1 November.

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4. New Employees

Assignment

Analyst
RFB

STAT

Radio Operator
ECB

Editor
Far East Section
Editorial Br.

Monitor
ECB

Typist
Publications Section
Editorial Br.

5. Reassignments

From

To

Technician
Med. Bureau

Watch Officer
WCB

STAT

Radio Operator
ECB

Watch Officer
ECB

Editor
London Bureau

Editor
Wire Service Section
Editorial Branch

Cruising Monitor
Med. Bureau

Info Specialist
BIS

Cruising Monitor
ECB

Cruising Monitor
Okinawa Bureau

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<u>Reassignments</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	
<div></div>	Cruising Monitor Okinawa Bureau	Cruising Monitor ECB	STAT
	Chief, Wire Service Section, Ed. Br.	Chief, Liaison & Requirements Staff	
	Senior Editor Editorial Branch	Senior Editor Mediterranean Bureau	
	Editor Editorial Br.	Editor London Bureau	
	Chief, Far East Section, Ed. Br.	Chief Saigon Bureau	

6. Separations

<div></div>	<u>From</u>		
	Teletypist ECB		STAT
	Secretary RFB		
	Clerk RFB		
<div></div>	Clerk RFB		STAT
<div></div>			
ROGER G. SEELY			

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